

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 8 to 14 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 8 to 14 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 8 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,039,271 ("Reiter"), U.S. Patent No. 6,405,946 ("Harata et al."), and U.S. Patent No. 4,494,898 ("Brownbill")¹. It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Reiter, Harata et al., and Brownbill does not render unpatentable the present claims for at least the following reasons.

Claim 8 relates to a method for producing and securing an apertured disk for a fuel injector for a fuel-injection system of an internal combustion engine, the apertured disk having an opening contour which ensures a complete passage of a fluid, the method including, *inter alia*, providing a flat, metallic sheet having a constant thickness. Claim 8 has been amended to recite that the flat, metallic sheet retains a thickness of at least 0.2 mm in a region outside of the region having reduced thickness. Support for the amendment, may be found, for example, on page 5, lines 12 to 28 of the Specification. By retaining a thickness of at least 0.2 mm in the outside region, the injector has excellent fatigue strength and long-term endurance.

In contrast, the combination of Reiter, Harata et al., and Brownbill fails to disclose, or even suggest, the feature that a flat, metallic sheet retains a thickness of at least 0.2 mm in a region outside of a region having reduced thickness. The only disclosure made by Reiter that concerns thickness is with respect to the valve seat body (16), which Reiter states "is approximately 0.8 mm to 1.5 mm thick." As is apparent from Figure 1 of Reiter, the valve seat body (16) is significantly thicker than the injection port disk (34) (which the Examiner considers to be the apertured disk of the present claims). Thus, if the valve seat body (16) is approximately 0.8 mm to 1.5

¹ Brownbill is not mentioned in the § 103(a) rejection header, but is referred to in the body of the rejection.

mm thick, the injection port disk (34) must be thinner. Therefore, Reiter does not disclose, or even suggest, a thickness of **at least 0.2 mm** in a region outside of a region having reduced thickness, as presented in claim 8.

Harata et al. and Brownbill do not cure this deficiency. Harata et al. does not disclose the thickness of the plate (25) or how much thickness remains after the depression is formed. Brownbill is not concerned with a fuel injector, or an apertured disk having a thickness of at least 0.2 mm in a region outside of the region having reduced thickness. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Reiter, Harata et al., Brownbill does not render unpatentable claim 8 or dependent claims 9 to 14 for at least these reasons.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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